Funding Levels and the Drought Confound UN Policy[1]

Two of the many policies aimed at capacity building and strongly supported by UN are:

- To increase the presence of both International and National staff in Afghanistan; and
- To attract back to Afghanistan technically qualified Afghans.

Veterinarians, who did not make up a large technical service in terms of numbers before the war, have been increased through UN and donor support over the past ten years into one of the largest cadres of technically qualified people in Afghanistan today. Through a combination of circumstances this build-up and retention of vital expertise is about to be thrown away.

The privatisation of veterinary services has reached a stage where perhaps one third or more of district-based Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) could be totally self sufficient. All VFUs are now being forcibly privatised because of the large reduction in donor funding. This would be an acceptable situation, as at least 60% of district veterinary clinics would be able to stand on their own feet, were it not for the present drought.

The drought has caused considerable numbers of animal deaths, and in some cases nomads are reported to have lost 100% of their livestock. Further, more the prices in the markets for live animals have fallen by 80% or more. These losses and very low prices make it very difficult, if not impossible, for the farmers to pay for veterinary services, and the self-sustaining VFUs will not be able to survive until livestock farming returns to normal. At the same time the drought makes it imperative to protect animals through vaccination and deworming, for which farmers will not be able to pay, and without which animal losses will be even greater.

This in turn means that the veterinary expertise, so carefully nurtured and built up over the years, will break up and dissipate to other occupations, and the more educated are bound to seek ways and means to leave Afghanistan. This goes directly against the two policies issues indicated above.

What is needed is a time-bound injection of funds - say 12 to 18 months - to support these otherwise self-sustaining VFUs until the crisis has past and they are again able to charge the farmer affordable rates. This is not back-tracking on privatisation, it is merely a temporary measure to combat the effects of the drought and the consequent loss of sustainable livelihoods within the farming communities.

Under normal circumstances the nation/state would take up the responsibility for such emergencies, but in Afghanistan there is no government or public purse that can respond to this kind of situation. Therefore in the absence of a state organisation and funding, assistance agencies have an obligation to respond to these life threatening types of emergency.

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[1] File: capacity'loss'00.wp5

A note on the drought in Hazarajat
Michael Semple, Yakaolang, 2nd April 2000

The drought in southern Afghanistan threatens Hazarajat with a range of indirect and direct effects, which are likely to further undermine food security in the region during year 2000. The prior vulnerability of the area indicates that there will a continuing need for emergency food security work in Hazarajat in 2000. However, for the moment only partial information is available and we shall only be able to assess te drought impact incrementally, as information becomes available.

Precipitation – snow
There has been significantly less snow in the winter of 99/00, than average. This seems to be generalised across the region. Local estimates of snow depth from Bamyan, Panjao and Yakaolang indicate snow fall has been one third to one half of that in a "normal" year. More specifically, snow fall has been less than in 98/99, which was itself a drought year. The estimates of 50 to 66% reduction in snowfall have come from my own visits to Foladi (where they have been observing snow availability on the northern slopes of the Koh e Baba, main source of recharge into the Bamyan irrigation channels) and travel through the high plateau of Shibartu and Karganatu. Ben has reported similar form Panjao. Most graphically, the road between Yakaolang and Bamyan, which crosses these plateaux, has not been closed at all during the winter, because of the reduced snow fall. This is unprecedented in the 11 years for which I have been travelling in Hazarajat.

People are already anticipating water shortages later in the season. With slight higher snowfall last year, we still observed these. Therefore we should expect irrigation sources to dry up through the summer. Spring and check dam sources will dry up first (from June?) and channels drawing from rivers will dry up a bit later (from July?)

During the 1999 drought, the southern part of Hazarajat, especially the granite belt in Shahristan, was worst affected and we observed areas with 100% crop failure. This area has received almost zero winter precipitation and is likely to be the most vulnerable in 2000 also. We should also check on adjoining Jaghoray, which is also part of the southern granite belt.

Spring planting
Whereas the winter snow is important for recharge of aquifers – and determines availability of water in the springs and irrigation channels – the spring rains are critical in facilitating spring planting. In particular the upland lalmi (rainfed) cultivation depends on good spring rains. The front that passed over in the past week has given two to three days of rain across the central part of the region that I have been in touch with (Bamyan, Yakaolang, Panjao). This has acted as a trigger to ground preparation and spring planting . Normal weather patterns would still give another month of rain. Hazarajat spring planting (barley and wheat in the highlands and potatoes in the lowlands) is not complete until mid May. Farmers may yet achieve a normal cultivated area.

Crop prospects
It is too early say what will happen to the rainfed crop. If rains continue in April, it could still be normal. However it is already certain that the irrigated crop will be decreased by the water shortage caused by lack of snow. Farmers will mitigate this somewhat by increased planting of barley (matures before the channels dry up) and by reverting to drought resistant varieties ("yekawa" or single irrigation local varieties of wheat). (This provides an interesting example of priorities in agricultural development work in the region. It illustrates the importance of ensuring that farmers have a range of crop varieties available to them – reduced vulnerability through protecting diversity. The trend towards high yielding varieties may have reduced availability of local drought resistant ones).

Fodder
Already in 1999 the region experienced reduction in fodder production. Most fodder is gathered from the hill sides and riverside meadows. People measure fodder production in terms of the number of person loads of fodder than can be gathered from a particular tract. Hassanyar last year produced some figures for reported reductions. The reduced snowfall and projected early drying up of water sources means that we

(Note – in some village meetings we did discuss the possibility of using the Kandahar animals to restock in Hazarajat esp. Bamyan. However it did not seem realistic. The barbed suggestion from Bamyan was that it would be better just to retrieve their animals that were stolen last year).

Annex (1) Lal valley fodder yield in 1998-1999 harvest season.

Village	Fodder yield (seer)			% Reduction	Fodder species
	1996	1998	1999		
A-Lal					
1) Dehi Petab Ulya	400	500	250	50	Ghighu, Kamai
2) Dehi Petab Sufla	350	500	200	60	Ghighu, Kamai
3) Navi Agha	300	450	200	55	Ghighu, Kamai
4) Rashak	250	250	150	40	Ghighu, Kamai
5) Mushkai	800	1000	500	50	Ghighu, Kamai
6) Zangi Dar	550	700	400	43	Khola , Kamai
7) Sia Sang	800	1500	400	73	Khola, Chukri,
8) Sari Dasht	1200	1500	700	53	Khola, Kamai, Ghighu
9) Naw Abad	450	600	250	58	Khola , Kamai, Ghighu.
10) Jaw Qul	200	300	100	66	Khola, Badra, Ghighu
11) Taka Ghal	200	250	100	60	Khola, Kammai, Ghighu
12) Jaw Qulak	250	350	150	57	Khola , Chukri Ahu,Kamai
13) Shibarak	350	450	200	55	Khola, Kamai ,Ghighu
14) Garmabi Ulya	150	200	100	50	Khola, Kami ,Ghighu
15) Garmabi Sufla	100	150	50	66	Khola, Badra, Kamai ,
16) Jangalak	400	500	200	60	Khola, Kamai, Ghighu
17) Qala Shakraki	250	500	150	70	Khola, Badra, Chukri Ahu
18) Dewalak Ulya	1000	1500	700	53	Khola, Kamai ,Ghighu
19) Dewalak Sufla	400	450	300	33	Kamai, Ghighu
20) Khushka Bala	150	250	60	80	Khola , Badra
21) Shahristan, Daki	300	300	100	66	Khola, Kamai ,Ghughu
22) Sia Cheshma	1000	1000	800	20	Ghighu, Kamai
23) Cheshma Padsha	400	300	150	50	Khola, Kamai, Ghighu
24) Sari Shakraki	700	600	400	33	Kamai, Ghighu
	10950	***13600***	***6610***	***48 %***	
B- Sari Jangal					
1) Malmurak	200	250	150	40	Kamai, Ghighu
2) Sokhtagi	250	150	300	50	Kamai, Ghighu
3) Dahani Gurdoud	150	200	100	50	Kamai, Ghighu
4) Qala Shahr	700	900	450	50	Kamai, Ghighu
5) Shaikh Sangak	150	200	100	50	Kamai, ghighu
6) Teraz	2000	2500	1800	28	Ghighu
7) Abi Barik	450	500	300	40	Kamai, Ghighu
8) Chil Abak	450	500	300	40	Kamai. Ghighu
9) Qala Kushk	400	500	200	40	Kamai. Ghighu
10) Shakhnaw	200	300	150	50	Kamai, Ghighu
11) Karez	1500	2000	1000	50	Kamai, Ghighu
12) Sangi Ibrahim	350	600	300	50	Kamai, Ghighu
13) Safed Reg	800	1000	500	50	Kamai, Ghighu
	7600	***10250***	***6070***	***40.78***	
C- Kerman					
1) Barishtogak	2000	2500	2000	20	Ghighu, khar
2) Sari Chabal	500	650	500	23	Ghighu, Khar
3) Ghar Sang	1000	2500	1500	40	Khar, Ghighu
	3500	***5650***	***4000***	***29 %***	
Grand Total	***22,050***	***29,500***	***16,680***	***43.45***	

The Anex (1) shows that fodder yield in 1998 was 34 % higher than 1996 and the fodder yield for 1999 was 43,45 % lower than 1998 harvest.

B. Annex (2): Fodder yield for 1998 and 1999 harvest in Panjao District.

Village	Elevation (M)	Fodder Yield (seer)			Types of Fodder
		1998	1999	%	
A- Ghorghori					
1) Dehi Barat	2900	400	120	70	Khola, Ganda Baghal
2) Joui House	3050	400	240	60	Khar
3) Sorkhak	3100	600	400	66.6%	Khola, Qaf
4) Ghuage Naw	3250	320	200	37.5	Khar
		17200	**960**	**44 %**	
B- Guder, Gandab Akhzarat					
1) Pai Kotel	3000	500	400	20 %	Ghigho
2) Sokhta Qash	2900	600	300	50	Ghigho, Kamai
3) Dahani Guder	2800	150	100	33	Ghigho, Khar
4) Bariki	2880	300	240	20	Ghigho
5) Jangrig	2880	400	300	25	Kamai, Ghigho
6) Sari Safedak	2800	3000	1800	40	Kamai, Ghigho
7) Zard Naw	2900	750	300	40	Ghigho, Kamai, Khola
		5700	**2840**	**50**	
C- Naikul and Tagabbarg valleys					
1) Nawri	2650	1000	5000	50	Kamai, Ghigho, Chukri
2) Taghpushi	2650	700	300	57	Kamai, Chukri
3) Takhak	2640	300	149	53	Kamai, Chukri
4) Qala Kata, Tagabbarg	2750	500	250	50	Ghigho, Kamai
		2500	**5699**	**128**	
Grand Total		**25400**	**9499**	**37**	

D. Annex (4): Fodder yield for 1998 and 1999 harvest in Dai Kundi District.

Village	Valley	Fodder Yield (seer)			Type of Fodder
		1998	1999	%	
1) Subz Guli	Ashtarlai	1500	800	46	Kamai, Ghigho
2) Rangi Darakht	Ashtarlai	2000	1200	40	Kamai, Ghigho
3) Dahani Naui Daraz	Ashtarlai	1000	800	20	Ghigho, Kamai
4) Usai	Ashtarlai	700	500	28	Ghigho, Kamai
5) Dahani Gardish	Ashtarlai	500	400	20	Ghigho
6) Sheikh Miran	Sheikh Miran	3500	2000		Ghigho, Kamai
7) Barik	Sia Dara	1500	900	40	Kamai, Ghigho
8) Khaki Zanak	Sia Dara	5000	3000	40	Kamai, Ghigho
9) Sarab	Sang Chilak	2000	1500	25	Ghigho
10) Khoshk Kaw	Khader	4000	3000	25	Ghigho
11) Joui Murad	Khader	2500	2000	20	Ghigho
12) Dahani Jingan	Jingan	1000	800	20	Ghigho
13) Sia Qul	Jingan	5000	4000	20	Ghigho
14) Sabz Joui	Killigan	350	250	29	Ghigho
15) Rah Naw	Killigan	900	450	50	Kamai, Ghigho
16) Qalai Sang	Shaikh Ali	600	300	50	Kamai, Ghigho
17) Talkhak	Shaikh Ali	1000	700	30	Kamai, Ghigho
18) Seerak	Sang Takht	800	600	25	Ghigho
19) Sona	Sang Takht	600	400	33	Ghigho, Kamai
20) Shaikh Sangak	Hassanak	300	200	33	Ghigho,
21) Sari Quruq	Hassanak	1500	1200	20	Ghigho
22) Shahristan	Bander	400	200	50	Ghigho, Kamai
23) Dahani Sai	Bander	400	300	25	Ghigho
24) Shenya, Maqbul	Bander	500	250	50	Kamai, Ghigho
25) Silbito	Bander	300	180	40	Ghigho, Kamai
		37850	**11630**	**30**	

Panjao, Hazarajat
4 October 1999
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C. Annex (3): Fodder yield for 1998 and 1999 harvest in Waras District.

Village	Elevation	Fodder Yield (seer)			Type of Fodder
		1998	1999	%	
A- Qulbatu Valley					
1) Bonaghol	2900	100	75	25	Pali, Ghigho, Khar
2) Sokhta Qul		200	135	32	Pali, Ghigho
3) Dahani Sokhta Qul	2700	250	125	50	Ghigho, Kamai, Badra, Usha
4) Chenar	2750	40	30	25	Ghigho, Kamai
5) Dehani Lailai	2600	150	75	50	Kamai, Badra, Ghigho
6) Char Oba	2600	500	250	50	Kamai, Badra, Ghigho
		1090	**690**	**44**	
B- Qaraghojor, Takht					
1) Gerojoui		500	300	40	
2) Naurak		250	50	80	Khola, Kamia, Chukri
3) Kokhchobak		300	100	66	Khola, Kamai, Chukri, Ghigho
		1050	**450**	**42**	
C- Miana Mulk, Chamber, Takht					
1) Espisngak		1280	900	29	Pali, Ghigho
2) Safed Cheshma		3800	2300	39	Pali, Kamai
		5080	**3200**	**37**	
D- Chijin valley					
1) Khushkawak		3600	2400	33	Pali, Kamai, Ghigho, Badra
2) Boomi Rami		432	310	28	Pali
3) Shukurdad		1500	1100	26	Pali
		5532	**3810**	**31**	
E- Misc. Valleys	***Valleys***				
1) Gugerd	Sultan Rubat	2160	1500	30	Ghigho, Khar
2) Borghosonak	Tagabshah	2700	800	70	Kamai, Chukri
3) Qalai Matak	Sultan Rubat	2000	800	60	Kamai, Chukri
4) Raqul, Bastok	Sourkhjoui	1200	700	41	Kamai, Ghigho, Chukri
5) Taijoui	Safed Ghaw	3000	1100	63	Kamai, Chukri
6) Bariki	Sarab	1720	800	53	Kamai, Chukri, Ghigho
7) Said Quli	Sarab	2000	900	55	Kamai, Chukri, Ghigho
8) Shenya	Quami Barfi	1800	700	61	Kamai, Chukri, Ghigho
9) Haft Kidi	Quami Yari	1780	600	65	Kamai, Chukri
		18360	**7900**	**43 %**	

IMPACT OF "99 DROUGHT ON FODDER PRODUCTION IN FOUR DISTRICTS OF HAZARAJAT

By:
Dr. Amir S. Hassanyar
November 1999

A. Background:

Rangeland forms the backbone of Hazarajat's economy. It provides food (famine food) and fuel to the poor rural community and fodder for livestock. Livestock husbandry is the main livestock husbandry is the main source of livelihood for both small farmers and landless poor in Hazarajat. Live livestock is the main source of cash following livestock products (glims, carpets, wool, skins, quruts) and poplar beams (in a few valleys). Most of the households obtain most of their food through trade, buying wheat with money earned from livestock sales. Agriculture forms an important secondary element of access to food for poor households.

The "99 drought has been one of the worst droughts over the past 30 years (1969-72 droughts). In 1969-72 drought years 35% of livestock population reduced as a result of starvation or selling in a cheap price.

This drought had a serious impact on fodder production and ultimately on livestock industry. Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the affect of current drought on fodder production in four Districts of Hazarajat.

B. Location:

The four districts are panjao and Waras (Bamyan Province), Lal-o-Sarijungel (Ghor Province) and Dai Kundi (Uruzgan Province). The population is estimated at a minimum of 514,000 people (Table(1)). Panjao and waras are part of former Dai Zangi. Dai kundi is the largest district in Hazarajat. Lal is the main center of livestock husbandry followed by Waras and Panjao. Dai Kundi with a poor animal husbandry because of lack of pasture is one the poorest districts in Hazarajat.

Table (1): The general feature of Panjao, Waras, Lal and Dai Kundi.

District	Elevation (m)	No. Villages	No. Households	Population
Panjao	2,700	510	13,800	96,600
Waras	2,500	606	18,500	129,500
Lal	2,800	622	18,329	128,300
Dai Kundi	2,500	700	25,000	175,000
Total	**10,500**	**2,438**	**75,629**	**529,400**

Source: Population statistics was based on two years of food assessment for Panjao and Waras in December of 1998 and May of 1999 and November "97 food assessment for a Lal and Yakowlang and August "99 food security assessment for Dai Kundi.

Table (2): shows the ratio of irrigated land (Abi) to rain fedland.

District	*Abi*	*Lalmi*
Panjao	60%	40%
Waras	80%	20%
Lal	10%	90%
Yakowlang	80%	20%
Dai Kundi	80%	20%
Average	62%	38%

C. Livestock Population

On the basis of 1998-99 headcounts and 100-village survey, the estimated livestock population for 1999 is shown in Table (2).

Table (3) shows the estimated livestock population in Panjao, Lal, Waras and Dai Kundi.

Districts	Livestock Population					
	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Horses	Mules
Panjao	90,000	120,000	20,000	5,000	800	0
Waras	60,000	700,000	50,000	30,000	1,000	0
Lal	190,000	900,000	140,000	50,000	900	300
Dai Kundi	54,000	60,000	90,000	100,000	400	0
Total	**394,000**	**1,780,000**	**300,000**	**185,000**	**3,100**	**300**

Note: Mule breeding has been started in Lal District since 1997. the horse population is diminishing because of horse export to Pakistan. In Dai Kundi District, the landless people do not have rights to the pastures; therefore, the landless are also livestock less. In Panjao, Waras and Lal the landless do have rights to pastures therefore; they can keep a few sheep or cattle.

D. Methodology:

This assessment survey was conducted in 100 villages within 29 main livestock rearing valleys of Panjao, Waras, Lal and Dai Kundi districts from May to June 1999. the methodology included interviews with 5 farmers in each village (the number of fodder yield is the sum of 5 farmers fodder harvest in 1998 and 1999 harvest season), amount of fodder harvest in 98-99 years, the type of fodder crops, tolerance of fodder plants to drought from their experiences, the amount of hay

needed per head of animals/ winter, the fodder price, livestock price, the dominant fodder crops and the major rangeland areas in their districts and direct observations of fodder crops on the mountains.

1.Major Fodder Crops:

The major fodder crops which were widely found almost all over Hazajrat are: Ghighu (Prangos pabularia), kamai (Prangos spp.) and Khar (Cousinia spp.) and the localized species are: Khola (Dorema ammoniacum), Chukri (Rheum spp), Badra (Dorema Aucheri), Pali (pyramidoptera cabulica), and Koda (a bunch grass). Ghighu, kamai and khar from almost 80% species composition of all rangelands in the four districts in which this study was carried out Ghighu, kamai and khar are cosmopolitans found at both northern and southern slopes and at different altitudes. However, ghighu was dominant at northern slopes and kamai was dominanat at southern exposures. Khola and Badra are found mostly in northern slopes.

2. Responses of fodder crops to droughts

The affects of drought on range plants were different from district to district; from valley to valley; from exposures to exposures and from plant to plant. The responses of different forage plants to "99 drought is shown in Table (3)

Table (3): Shows the responses of different forage plants to "99 drought.

Fodder varieties	Degree of tolerance to drought		
	High	Medium	Low
1. Ghighu	X		
2. Pali	X		
3. Khar	X		
4. Kamai		X	
5. Chukri			X
6. Khola			X
7. Badra			X
8. Koda		X	

On the basis of fodder yields in 1998 and 1999 (see annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4), ghighu was the highest drought tolerant (25% yield reduction) followed by Pali (30% yield reduction) and Khar (35% yield reduction). However, Chukri, khola and Badra with 70% reduction in "99 harvest were the most susceptible forage plants to drought (see for the detail annex under the four districts).
The species composition of rangelands was as follows;
<Kamai-Chukri Association:

sorkh Kawak, Tagabghar, Sewaki Dadar, Alichighiji, Sultan Rabat, Sorkh Joui. (Waras District) and Nai Kul, Daraz Qul (Panjao District).

<Kamai-Ghighu Association:

Sarab, Safed Ghow, Ligan, Main Kawak and Sakdez valleys (Panjao District).
<Pali pure community:

UNITED  NATIONS

Office of the United Nations Co-ordinator for Afghanistan

Information Note: The Drought in Southern Afghanistan

The drought affecting southern Afghanistan is continuing to take a toll on agricultural and urban areas. Although it has rained three times this year, January and February have been unusually dry with far below average precipitation. Compounding the current water shortage is the scarcity of rain during both 1998 and 1999. The situation is likely to get worse because the period for rain is rapidly ending, and the next rains are not expected until December. The Helmand River, one of the major rivers in southwest Afghanistan, can now be crossed on foot in Lashkargah, Helmand province. This phenomenon indicates the severity of the current water shortage. Pending the receipt of water from snow melt (snowfall over winter was reportedly low this year) in the Central Highlands, southern Afghanistan may face a possible water emergency. This could involve a serious lack of drinking water in urban areas, increased disease outbreaks, severe loss of livestock, and crop failure in the breadbasket of Afghanistan.

A UN/NGO task force was formed in mid-March to assess and plan a response to the developing situation. The geographical extent of the current affected area are the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, and Nimroz, with some effects seen in Zabul and Uruzgan. New reports, as yet unconfirmed, have been received that the drought is also affecting animals in Farah Province.

The Rural Situation

Feed available through grazing has declined due to the drought. Moreover, farmers have insufficient quantities of fodder from the 1999 harvest due to low yields. The result is that animals in affected areas have begun dying of starvation. So far, livestock owners of the Registan desert, who are mainly Kochis (nomads), are most seriously affected. Some have already lost up to 100% of their stock. After review of historic animal numbers in the area, FAO has found that in 1997/98 there were an estimated four million sheep and goats owned by Kochis in Kandahar, Helmand and Nimroz. Total cattle, sheep, and goats are estimated at about 5.6 million. Although livestock mortality rates have not yet been collected for all regions, assessment of Shinkay district and Shemolzai district in districts of Kandahar and Zabul showed that the mortality rate of sheep varied between 38% in and 63% respectively. Animal mortality is expected to have a very adverse impact on the livelihoods of those engaged in livestock production in southern Afghanistan.

In order to keep animals alive and avert large-scale impoverishment, it is possible to provide supplementary feeding with urea/molasses blocks. These are locally produced in Peshawar at a cost of between USD 210 to 215 per metric tonne. FAO has found that this solution would theoretically be possible; however, about 140 tonnes of blocks would suffice for 1.5 million sheep for one day and would cost USD $30,000. Thus, supplementary feeding of livestock may not prove feasible on any meaningful scale without a large injection of cash.

chijin, Chamber, Sari Takht (Waras Distrcit)

<Kamai-Khola-Badra Assocaition:

Pushtai Ghurghuri, Pushtai Gundab, Navi Daraz Sorkh Boom, Pam Alterghan (Panjao District), north and south of Bank-I-Duwakhan (Sai Sang, Dewalak, Bed Now, Achabazr, Talkhak) and Karamzar, Sari Sangi Khalil (Lal District).
<Khar pure community:
Turghai, Muhr, Ghurghuri, Gundab, Navi, Pam Alterghan (Panjao District), Safed Dewal, Sangi Sorakh, Tumborak, Barishtogag, Dasht-i-Safarak, Ghr Sangag (Karman, Lal District).
The impact of current drought on fodder production is shown in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Table (4); Summary of a 40-village fodder harvest for "98 and "99 harvest seasons, Lal District.

Valleys	No. Village	Fodder yield (seer)				Types of plants
		1996	1998	1999	%	
Lal	24	10,950	13,600	6,610	48	Kamai, Badra, khola, ghighu
Sari-Jungel	13	7,600	9,600	5,650	41	Kamai, Ghigho
Kerman	3	3,500	5,650	4,000	29	Ghigho, khar
Total	**40**	**22,050**	**28,850**	**16,260**	**43.7**	

Table (4) shows a total of 43.7% reduction in "99 harvest over "98 harvest in Lal District.

Table (5); Summary of a 15 - village fodder harvest for "98 and "99 harvest seasons, Panjao District.

Valleys	No. Village	Fodder yield (seer)				Types of plants
		1996	1998	1999	%	
Ghorghuri	4	-	1,720	1,040	60	Khola, Kamai, Khar
Guhdar	3	-	1,250	800	36	Ghighu, Kamai
Akhzarat	3	-	3,700	2,390	35	Khola, Khar
Gandab	1	-	750	300	60	Kamai, Ghighu
Tagabburg	1	-	500	300	40	Kamai, Ghighu
Naikul	3	-	2,000	1,060	47	Kamai, Chukri, Ghighu
Total	**15**		**9,920**	**5,890**	**40.6**	

Table (5): Shows 40.6 % reduction in "99 harvest over "98 harvest.

Table (6); Summary of a 20-village fodder harves for "98 and "99 harvest seasons, Waras District.

Valleys	No. Village	Fodder yield (seer)				Types of plants
		1996	1998	1999	%	
Qulbatu, Takht	5	-	1,090	690	37	Ghighu, Kamai
Qaraghojur	3	-	1,050	450	42	Kamai, Ghighu
Maina Mulk	1	-	1,280	900	29	Pali, Ghighu
Chamber	1	-	3,800	2,300	39	Pali, Kamai

Chijin	3	-	5,532	3,810	31	Pali, Ghighu, Chukri
Sultan Rubat	2	-	4,160	2,300	48	Pali, Ghighu, Chukri
Sarab	2		3,720	1,700	54	Kamai, Badra, Ghighu
Sorkhjoui	1		1,200	700	42	Kamai, Badra, Ghighu, Chkri
Shenia, BB	1		1,800	700	38	Kamai, Ghigho, Chukri
Tagab Shah	1		2,800	700	75	Ghighu, Kamai, Chukri
Total	**20**		**26,432**	**14,250**	**58**	

Table (6): shows a total of 58% reduction in "99 harvest over "98 harvest.

Table (7); Summary of a 25 - village fodder for "98 and "99 harvest seasons, Dai Kundi District.

Valleys	No. Village	Fodder yield (seer)				Types of plants
		1996	1998	1999	%	
Ashterlai	5	-	5,700	3,700	35	Ghighu, Kamai
Shakhmiran	1	-	3,500	200	43	Ghighu, Kamai
Sia Dara	2	-	6,500	3,900	40	Ghighu, Kamai
Sang Chilak	1	-	2,000	1,500	25	Ghighu, Khar
Khader	2	-	5,500	5,000	9	Ghighu
Jingan	2	-	6,000	4,800	20	Ghigho
Killigan	2	-	1,250	700	44	Kamai, Ghigho
Shaikh Ali	2	-	1,600	1,000	37	Ghighu, Kamai
Sang Takht	4	-	3,200	2,500	22	Ghighu, Kamai
Bander	4	-	1,600	950	41	Ghighu, Kamai
Total	**25**		**36,850**	**26,050**	**39**	

Note: The names of forage crops are written on the basis of their abundances in the rangelands.

F. Conclusions:

The following conclusions were reached from the analysis of the impact of "99 drought on fodder production:

1. Table 4, 5, 6 and 7 indicate the total fodder harvest for "98 and "99 harvest was 102, 052 and 62, 410 seers, respectively for the 103-village in the four districts which were surveyed during "99 fodder season. This shows a total deficit of 39,642 seers (39%) of fodder in the 103 villages surveyed. In the 40 villages of Lal District, the fodder yield in 1996 was 22,050 seers; in 1998 was 29,500 seers and in 1999 was 16,6980 seers. This indicates, "99 harvest was an exceptional. The price of one seer of dried mountain hay at the time of survey was 25,000 per seer. According to the farmers, 20 seers of dried hay is needed to keep one sheep dring the mild winter month. If a household keeps 10 sheep, he has to spend 5,000,000 afs. Most of the poor household cannot afford to keep 10 sheep during the long winter.
2. Before fodder harvest, the price of one *shishak* male sheep was 800,000 Afs. After poor fodder harvest, the price of sheep dropped from 800,000 Afs to 700,000 Afs (13% dropped).

3. The impact of drought varied from region to region, from valley to valley and from exposures to exposures depending on phypsography of the region and the plant species. For example, in Lal District, the total fodder reduction in Karman was 29%, in Lal valley was 48% and in Sari-Jungel valley it was 40.78%. ghighu with an average reduction of 25% was the most drought tolerant, followed by Pali (28% reduction) and khar with 35% reduction. The most drought susceptible species were Khola, Badra (70% reduction) and chukri (50% reduction) (see for detail Annex 1 to 4).
4. There was also district-wise difference in fodder production. The district-wise, the reduction was 43.7% for Lal rangelands; 40.6% for Panjao; 58% for Waras and 39% for Dai Kundi. As seen in the tables (4, 5, 6, 7), Waras District with high chukri composition in its rangeland was suffered from drought more than other districts.
5. It also should be kept in mind that irrigated fodder harvest in "99 was half of "98 harvest. According to our survey, this year in spring-fed villages, there was only one cut (or harvest) for alfalfa due to shortages of water.
6. The fodder shortage has a negative impact on re-stocking of livestock by those who sold off their livestock during blockade years (1997-98) and those landless households who depend to a large extent to rearing of a couple of sheep or goats for their livelihoods.
7. For those poor farmers who lost all their assets during the past two years, year 2000 will be a difficult year.

Ne: 10. 4. 2000

Southern Afghanistan faces drought

ISLAMABAD: The drought affecting southern Afghanistan is continuing to take a toll on agricultural and urban areas. Although it has rained three times this year, January and February have been unusually dry with far below average precipitation, reports United Nations.

Compounding the current water shortage is the scarcity of rain during both 1998 and 1999. The situation is likely to get worse because the period for rain is rapidly ending, and the next rains are not expected until December.

The Helmand River, one of the major rivers in southwest Afghanistan, can now be crossed on foot in Lashkargah, Helmand province. This phenomenon indicates the severity of the current water shortage. Pending the receipt of water from snow melt (snowfall over winter was reportedly low this year) in the Central Highlands, southern Afghanistan may face a possible water emergency.

This could involve a serious lack of drinking water in urban areas, increased disease outbreaks, severe loss of livestock, and crop failure in the breadbasket of Afghanistan.

A UN and NGO task force was formed in mid-March to assess and plan a response to the developing situation. The geographical extent of the current-affected area, are the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, and Nimroz, with some effects seen in Zabul and Uruzgan. New reports, as yet unconfirmed, have been received that the drought is also affecting animals in Farah Province.

The rural situation: Feed available through grazing has declined due to the drought. Moreover, farmers have insufficient quantities of fodder from the 1999 harvest due to low yields. The result is that animals in affected areas have begun to die of starvation. So far, livestock owners of the Registan desert, who are mainly Kochis (nomads), are most seriously affected.

Some have already lost up to 100 percent of their stock. After review of historic animal numbers in the area, FAO has found that in 1997/98 there were an estimated four million sheep and goats owned by Kochis in Kandahar, Helmand and Nimroz. Total cattle, sheep, and goats are estimated at about 5.6 million.

Although livestock mortality rates have not yet been collected for all regions, assessment of Shinkay district and Shemolzai district in districts of Kandahar and Zabul showed that the mortality rate of sheep varied between 38 percent in and 63 percent. Animal mortality is expected to have a very adverse impact on the livelihoods of those engaged in livestock production in southern Afghanistan, the report said.

In order to keep animals alive and avert large-scale impoverishment, it is possible to provide supplementary feeding with urea or molasses blocks. These are locally produced in Peshawar at a cost of between US $210 to 215 per metric tonne. The FAO has found that this solution would theoretically be possible; however, about 140 tonnes of blocks would suffice for 1.5 million sheep for one day and would cost US $30,000.

Thus, supplementary feeding of livestock may not prove feasible on any meaningful scale without a large injection of cash. UNOPS have bought up all the molasses blocks (6,000) in Kandahar and have distributed them to livestock owners; this small amount is all that is possible at this time without additional funding.

The next worst affected are farmers, who are increasingly facing a lack of irrigation water from dried up rivers and karezes. Kandahar farmers are already suffering from the drought, while farmers in Helmand may be increasingly affected if rain does not fall in the next few weeks UNOPS has started water conservation measures by building small dam walls in karezes, and will now field a mission to explore ways of expanding water conservation.

In addition, in collaboration with MCI, OPS will review water supply from Kajaki Dam and will determine the extent of water supply to agricultural areas irrigated by the dam. A local consultant financed by FAO, Rome will survey the problem in more detail.

The urban situation: Water pumps in Kandahar City are either running dry — since the shallow pumps extend only about eight meters deep — or are supplying undrinkable water. Local sources assert that current conditions amount to the worst drought since 1961.

United Nations agencies in the region say that water is available in Kandahar City at a depth below 20 meters. Thus, it can be assumed that the water table level has descended to a lower aquifer. Moreover, water levels at Kajaki dam are also at a record low and are 20 meters below normal for this time of year.

Urban dwellers are suffering from a lack of clean water and there is a possibility that even deepened wells will not provide water in the future. The World Health Organisation in Kandahar reports that this lack of safe water could result in a new wave of outbreaks of diarrhoea, dysentery, and related diseases. The UNICEF and WHO will review the incidence of disease outbreaks in the region in order to get a realistic picture of changes in the health situation that are attributable to drought.

UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with UNICEF are updating information on the situation of wells and urban water supply. They will link up with DACAAR, the leading agency in water and sanitation in southern Afghanistan, to obtain information on the status of potable water supply in rural areas.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is already providing emergency feeding for 30,000 families in areas of Kandahar, Helmand, and Zabul amounting to about 40 percent of the population of the areas covered. The WFP Afghanistan has completed the first phase and will use in total 7,164 MT of food—200 kilos of wheat and 50 kilos of corn-soy blend per family. This will continue up to the end of April. Following this programme, based on the scale of need, the WFP may also implement a series of food-for-work projects in these areas.

The WFP VAM section's baseline survey in Kandahar City, conducted in April 1999, showed that all households are able to purchase enough food to meet their minimum food needs, but that the poorest households are without an able-bodied male and earn 73 percent of their combined food and non-food needs and 50 percent of the income earned by poor households with an able bodied man. The income gap between households without an able-bodied man and those with a working male is more marked in Kandahar City than other cities in Afghanistan. The diet of poor households in Kandahar depends on cereals (70 percent wheat flour or bread and 10 percent rice). The city receives 50 percent of its cereal supplies from Pakistan and 40 percent from Kandahar province.

The WFP is currently updating its survey of the region to reflect the latest situation with special reference to the effects on the Kochis in Registan.

Local authorities in Kandahar will also be approached to help assess the situation and share their plans to cope with the drought.

Next steps: The UN and NGOs will continue efforts to piece together a comprehensive picture of current and projected needs based on ongoing and planned assessments. These efforts will be co-ordinated locally through the RCB in Kandahar and channelled through the Task Force in Islamabad. In recognition of the regional nature of the problem, the Task Force is forging links with those organisations addressing drought conditions in Pakistan. It is intended that a comprehensive summary of needs will be available to donors by mid to late April.—NNI

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The Urban Situation

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FOOD SECURITY IN AFGHANISTAN in 2000
NOTES FOR THE APB – 13 APRIL 2000

I. FOOD SUPPLY

a) Drought Conditions

- The fragile food security situation in Afghanistan is expected to continue in 2000 as lack of rain characterizes the situation in much of the country. The drought conditions in south-western and central Afghanistan follow the dry 1998/99 season. The FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment mission in 1999 estimated the cereal harvest to be 16 percent below that of 1998.

- South-western Afghanistan appears to be the region the most seriously affected by the lack of rain. The Helmand river, one of the largest in the area, is sufficiently low to be waded across. Typically in April it is prone to flooding. The level of the river is unlikely to rise significantly, despite its being fed by melting snow from the Central Highlands, as low snowfall levels have been reported. The next rains in this area are not expected until November 2000.

- Moderately dry weather conditions have also been reported across the center of the country, from Herat through to Nangarhar.

- In contrast, near normal precipitation levels have been reported for northern Afghanistan for 1999/2000.

- A serious side-effect of the drought in south-western Afghanistan has been the death of livestock in the rural areas of Kandahar and Zabul provinces from lack of water and feeding ground. Many of these animals reportedly belong to the Kochi nomads. FAO has hired a consultant to send to south-western Afghanistan to assess the situation.

b) National wheat production

- In light of the current weather conditions, it is expected that the yield for rain-fed wheat crops in south-western Afghanistan will be lower than the figures reported for 1999. The production of rain-fed wheat from the south-west in 1999 was reported at 33,000 MT by the FAO/WFP crop assessment report, as compared to 81,000 MT in 1998, a sixty percent decrease. [1]

- Irrigated wheat production in south-western Afghanistan in 1999 increased by eight percent to 494,000 MT making that region the most productive in the country. Further improvement was hampered by damaged irrigation infrastructure following flooding in 1998 and a general lack of maintenance. It is probable that the irrigated crops will be seriously affected in 2000.

- The moderately dry conditions in western Afghanistan are also likely to have a negative impact on rain-fed wheat production. This region had the highest production in both

[1] The FAO/WFP Crop Assessment Mission for 2000 is scheduled from April 27 – May 15.

1999, 176,000 MT, and 1998, 230,000 MT. This area also produces significant amounts of irrigated wheat.

- Current indications are for a successful harvest in north and north-east Afghanistan in 2000.

c) Cross-border trade

- Afghanistan's national food deficit is made good by imports. The FAO/WFP crop assessment report estimated the 1999/2000 cereal import requirement at 1.1 million tonnes, up from 740,000 tonnes in 1998/99.

- The main source for cereal inputs is Pakistan. However, the implementation of stricter border controls in October 1999, following the military takeover in Pakistan, resulted in an acute decrease in the cereal flow from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Imports from Pakistan are particularly important for urban areas such as Kabul and Kandahar, for traditional food cereal deficit areas, such as the Central Highlands, and for those areas of Afghanistan affected by drought.

- Reports from WFP suboffices in Jalalabad and Kabul indicate that the amount of cereals crossing into Afghanistan from Pakistan has increased since last October but has not attained pre-October levels. Cereals also enter Afghanistan from Iran through Herat but the quantity is not comparable to that received from Pakistan. Kandahar is reportedly receiving cereals from Kazakhstan by way of Herat, as the traditional route through Quetta is constrained by a combination of drought in Pakistan and border restrictions.

II. ACCESS TO FOOD

a) Price Increases

- The poor cereal production year in 1999 combined with the restrictions on cross-border trade have resulted in significant increases in the price of wheat flour.

Price of Wheat Flour in Urban Centers: September 1999 - March 2000
(Afghanis per kg of wheat flour)

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Kabul	11,157	13,500	19,036	21,428 **(+92%)**	18,571	16,071	14,250 **(+28%)**
Kandahar	10,393	11,653	19,138	20,583 **(+98%)**	17,995	16,375	13,850 **(+33%)**
Jalalabad	9,631	10,516	13,718	16,072 **(+67%)**	15,545	15,382	14,289 **(+48%)**
Herat	6,994	7,688	9,368	10,750 **(+54%)**	10,063	9,875	10,225 **(+46%)**
Mazar*	16,607	17,857	23,393	25,283 **(+52%)**	23,571	23,036	25,357 **(+53%)**
Faizabad*	23,393	24,285	24,107	26,607 **(+14%)**	26,785	24,643	29,285 **(+25%)**

*prices expressed in Northern Afghanis

- The cost of wheat flour began to increase in October 1999 in all major urban centers across Afghanistan. Prices peaked in December 1999 and then began to decrease. As at the end of March 2000, wheat flour prices were still significantly above their pre-October levels.

- In light of 1998/99 weather conditions and increasing wheat flour prices, WFP conducted an Emergency Food Needs Assessment in October/November 1999 in several districts of Kandahar, Zabul and Helmand provinces. An emergency intervention for 200,000 people using 7,164 MT of food is being implemented. The first phase of the distribution was completed in February and March and the second phase will be completed over the next few weeks. Additional EFNA were carried out in four districts of Ghazni though no emergency intervention has yet taken place.

- VAM rural surveys were completed in Jurm/Keshem, Badghis, Ghor-central and the northern rain-fed areas in 1999 and urban baseline surveys were carried out in Kandahar and Herat.

b) Internal Displacement

- Intense military activities in areas such as the Shomali Plains in August 1999 have increased the problem of internal displacement in Afghanistan. There are currently an estimated 21,000 displaced people living in the former Soviet Embassy in Kabul; most of these families have been there since September 1999. Another 50,000 displaced families remain in the Panjshir Valley, a food deficit area, and have been there for eight months.

- WFP continues to provide food (CSB, sugar and vegetable oil) to the displaced families in the former Soviet Embassy as renewed military activities north of Kabul preclude their returning home. Last year's crops in the Shomali were destroyed by military activities and seeds were not planted for the 2000 harvest. WFP assistance is likely to continue in the coming months.

- WFP was able to provide 2,684 MT of wheat to the displaced people in the Panjshir Valley in late 1999 through the northern route and the southern "humanitarian corridor" from Kabul. However, in 2000, only one convoy carrying 14 MT of food was transported across the southern route. WFP is currently negotiating with transporters in the north-eastern province of Badakhshan to provide food to the Panjshir through Taluqan. The Anjuman Pass remains closed due to weather conditions.

c) Employment Opportunities

- Recent WFP VAM surveys in Afghanistan suggest that, in many urban areas, the main threat to household food security is underemployment. Female headed households are particularly susceptible to food insecurity as the main source of income is provided by child labour (collecting scrap and paper for sale, selling water, repairing tires, shining shoes) while the women beg for money.

- The population of the urban centers has increased significantly further limiting already restricted employment opportunities. A recent census in Kabul estimates the current

population of the city at 1.78 million people, compared with 1.2 million which had previously been estimated. [2]

III. FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS FOR 2000

- The cereal deficit recorded for 1999/2000, 1.1 million MT, appears likely to increase over the period 2000/01. Decreased cross-border trade with Pakistan makes it unlikely that the deficit will be made up by cereal imports from that country.

- The recent wheat flour price increases have shown how dependent the poor- and particularly the urban poor – of Afghanistan are on cereal imports. Reduced imports coupled with decreased domestic production has serious negative effects on food security for poor households in Afghanistan.

- WFP VAM surveys demonstrate that female headed households are the most food insecure. Clearly, these will be the families who will suffer the most should access to food become more restricted. In order to reach Afghan women and identify ways to assist them, WFP has hired national female staff for each of its six suboffices and is designing activities, such as the women's bakeries in Kabul and Mazar-I-Sharif and women's micro-enterprise activities in Badakhshan to reach the most vulnerable women.

- There are signs that both the Taliban and Northern Alliance are gearing up for renewed military activity. Should this activity create another wave of internal displacement, similar to events in 1999, urban centers such as Kabul will be faced with another influx of displaced families straining even further the meager resources sustaining the capital.

- VAM monitors have been deployed to four WFP suboffices (Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-I-Sharif and Faizabad) in order to better monitor household food security.

- WFP will continue to monitor the situation in the Central Highlands, working closely with the NGOs in that area.. In 1999, WFP provided 9,788 MT of food to an estimated 218,000 people. The needs in the Hazarajat for 2000 are expected to be at least as great as last year.

IV. WFP Afghanistan Resourcing Situation for 2000

- The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for Afghanistan in 2000/01 was approved by WFP's Executive Board in Rome in October 1999. To date, WFP Afghanistan has received firm pledges for 108,942 MT of food from Canada, the EU, Japan, and the US and a multilateral pledge funded by the government of Sweden, compared with estimated needs for 2000 of 115,800 MT. Total monetary value of the pledges to date is US$48,833,522 or 96% of the US$50,754,239 requested in the CAP 2000.

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[2] The census was carried out by the UN Afghanistan and the Central Statistics Office between July 1999 – January 2000.

The Drought and Livestock[1]

The effects of the drought so far in 2000 have been confined mainly to the South-West of Afghanistan and to neighbouring Baluchestan in Pakistan. With the general lack of precipitation in the southern half of Afghanistan this situation will get worse and spread to many other parts of the country. There are already reports from South and Central areas of the country that precipitation is down 60% or more on the levels of two years ago.

Mortality amongst livestock, particularly sheep and goats, has been reported to be 60% or more in the South-West so far and some farmers, particularly Kuchies, have been reported as losing 100% of their animals. The reasons for the high mortality is the lack of feed, a situation that has built up over the last two years and has left livestock vulnerable to starvation and the resultant diseases due to their reduced resistance. The needs of the people affected concerning their livestock (after their own food needs) and therefore their livelihoods are:

- ❑ Feed to keep their animals alive;
- ❑ Veterinary services to combat diseases;
- ❑ Availability of vaccines and medicines to protect livestock in their weakened state against diseases; and in due course
- ❑ Restocking.

Clearly considerable emergency funds will be required to cover all these needs.

Provision of feed is urgent if some animals are to be saved, which can be done by taking feed to the animals or by taking the animals to the feed. The latter course has been assisted by the Taliban authorities who have provided transport to truck animals to the Herat area, for example. This has not so far been sufficient for all animals, however in the long run it might exacerbate the problem in those other places in any case.

Taking feed to the animals is another option. To provide large quantities of rough age is not feasible but the provision of relatively concentrated feeds such as molasses blocks is a possibility. Manufacturing sufficient quantities for the animals at risk is unlikely but saving of some animals should be a goal. The fittest healthiest breeding ewes should be targeted so that they will be available to breed in the future.

Emergency operations should therefore be focused on a multi faceted approach:

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1 File: drght'sw'2.wp5

1. The manufacture of molasses/urea blocks (UMBs) should be geared up and stock piled against a worsening of the feed situation.

2. Delivery of UMBs where possible should be speeded up and the best breeding ewes should be targeted.

3. Direct financial support for veterinarians in the drought stricken areas should be provided because under the circumstances they will not be able to charge the farmers feed when their animals are dying and they are starving themselves.

4. Medicines and vaccine need to be provided. Such diseases as anthrax will emerge at times like these so herds and flocks need to be protected. Deworming also has to be carried out to provide better utilisation of feed and antibiotics and other medicines need to be available to save sick breeding ewes.

5. Restocking will have to be considered at a later date when the weather a feed situation stabilizes.

The first small project for $30,000 is just a start to address the immediate situation but support will have to be at least ten times this value alone if any impact is to be made in the future and the needs of animal health are to addressed as well. Any assistance that can be offered over and above the attached project profile would be gratefully received and would help to redress the livelihoods of some farmers and nomads in drought ridden Afghanistan.

Drought in Afghanistan: 2000

Miscellaneous papers presented at the, APB 13, April 2000

1. ap. WFP preliminary assessment of food production prospects. April 2000
2. Information Note: the Drought in Southern Afghanistan, UNOCHA
3. Food security in Afghanistan, FAO/WFP, 13 April 2000
4. The drought and livestock, FAO, 8 April 2000
5. Funding levels and the drought enforced UN Policy , FAO, 8 April 2000
6. Note on the drought in Hazrajat, Michael Semple, Yakolang; UNOCHA, 2 April 2000
7. Impact of 1999 Drought on fodder production in four districts of the Hazarjat, Dr. Amin S. Hassanyar, November 1999
8. Southern Afghanistan faces drought,------, --------.

Drought in Afghanistan: WFP Preliminary Assessment of Food Production Prospects

